

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 USIA-15
COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /067 W
-----192309Z 010170 /70

R 191402Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3015
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3893

MONROVIA FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, IV
SUBJ: COFFEE INDUSTRY - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. DEHUSKING IS THE PRIMARY PROCESS OF REMOVING THE OUTER COVERING FROM COFFEE CHERRIES TO PRODUCE GREEN COFFEE. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE GOIC HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT MECHANIZING THIS PORTION OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY TO PRODUCE A HIGHER QUALITY MORE UNIFORM GREEN BEAN FOR EXPORT. UNTIL RECENTLY, ALL THE DEHUSKING HAS BEEN DONE BY TRADITIONAL METHODS BY INDIVIDUAL SMALL PRODUCERS OR IN THE ONE LARGE DEHUSKING PLANT AT TOMBOKRO.

2. THE PLANT AT TOMBOKRO WHICH IS RUNNING AT ABOUT HALF CAPACITY, IS PROCESSING 35,000 TONS OF COFFEE PER YEAR. THIS PLANT, WHICH IS HUGE BY ANY STANDARDS AND INVOLVED ALL NEW TECHNOLOGY AT THE TIME OF ITS CONSTRUCTION, HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING SOME PROBLEMS WITH ITS EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT AND ITS LARGE CAPACITY -- THE NATURAL HINTERLAND CANNOT SUPPLY ENOUGH COFFEE TO KEEP THE PLANT OPERATING

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AT FULL CAPACITY. BECAUSE OF THESE COMPLICATIONS, GOIC HAS BEEN DELAYING A DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THEIR MECHANIZATION PLANS.

3. THEY SEEM NOW TO HAVE COME TO A DECISION. IN FEBRUARY, THE CAISSE DE STABILISATION ANNOUNCED TO THE EXPORTERS THAT THEY PLAN TO BUILD 17 DEHUSKING

PLANTS BY 1979. THESE PLANTS WILL BE MEDIUM-SIZED AND SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH NO DESCRIPTION WAS GIVEN OF THE PLANNED TECHNOLOGY, CAISSE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE TOMBOKRO PROCESS WHICH UTILIZES SANS, WOULD NOT BE USED.

4. IN JANUARY, THE IVORY COAST'S SECOND DEHUSKING PLANT WENT INTO OPERATION. LOCATED IN SAN PEDRO, THE UNICO PLANT IS JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED BY SIFCA, JAG, AND DAFCI, THREE LARGE COFFEE AND COCOA EXPORTERS. STARTING AS IT DID IN MID-SEASON, THE PLANT EXPECTS TO PROCESS ABOUT 24,000 TONS OF COFFEE THIS YEAR. NEXT YEAR WITH FULL OPERATING CAPACITY, IT HOPES TO DOUBLE THAT AMOUNT.

STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COFFEE, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABIDJA03893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770136-0113
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770445/aaaabmgy.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ce5a3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2770287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COFFEE INDUSTRY - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: EAGR, IV
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce5a3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009